

# Water Conservation – It just makes cents!!

## WATER

- How much do we have?
- How much do we really use?
- How do we use it and how can we save it?

We have loads of water in Manitoba, so why should we care?

Every ounce of water that enters your residence has to be distributed. That costs you money. All water leaving your residence must be treated and removed. That costs you money. As we use more water, those distribution systems must be upgraded. That costs you money. Dispersing and disposing of water means maintenance. More maintenance means more money.

From a purely economic point, you pay for water use. Maintenance costs are controllable. Switching over to a high efficiency water product is not only good for the planet but it is also very good for your wallet. We need to face the fact that saving water isn't just the right thing to do for the earth; it is the right thing to do to save us money!

Here is a breakdown of how the average family uses water.

- |           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| • Toilets | 36% |
| • Shower  | 35% |
| • Laundry | 11% |
| • Other   | 18% |

Total = 100%

Even the most conscientious environmentalist doesn't want to give up household comfort. Take for example – the toilet. The majority of people still have old style toilets that waste too much water. The typical toilet still uses 13 litres or more of water with every flush. Today there are a number of good quality low flow toilets that perform while saving 50% of water consumption.

So what does this mean? Simply you have a lot of choice. Being “green” in the past meant sacrifice. It meant sacrifice in performance, extra costs and definitely to the look of your home. This is no longer the case. Sustainability is about innovation not sacrifice! Tom Beggs Agencies (TBA) mission statement is very clear: first and foremost, promote toilets and products that work very well. Secondly, promote toilets and showerheads/faucets that work very well using as little water as possible.

Many people in North America still think of low flow toilets as “bad technology” introduced in the 1990's. They worked on six litres of water, but “didn't really clear the bowl properly, and plugged constantly”. That is because those old toilets used a siphon action to pull waste out of the toilet bowl. When they reduced the amount of water being used they had to reduce the size of the outgoing pipe or

trapway in the toilet in order to get that same siphon action. With trapways that were often less than two inches in diameter, it's no wonder they plugged all the time.

- Certain dual flush 3L/4.8L toilets use a wash down system that has been used all around the world for decades and are the only toilets on the market that feature a full four inch trapway. They work well every time and they simply don't plug.
- The same goes for certain 3L single flush toilets. These washdown toilets simply work and don't plug

Commercially these numbers are different (Restaurants use more dishwashing, Hotels more laundry). TOILETS HOWEVER USE MORE THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE FIXTURE AND THEY ARE A NECESSARY EVIL.

- Most toilets today use either 13L or 6L, older models use 27L.
- At 13L (that's 6 and ½ two liter pop bottles) each and every flush! An average family of four uses 84,900 liters per year on a 13L toilet. That same family uses 43,800 liters per year at 6L.
- By simply changing to a Caroma 3/4.8L dual flush toilet, the consumption for a family of four is reduced to 26,280 liters per year.
- That's a savings of 17,250 liters
- Now think about that leaking toilet. An average leaking toilet wastes up to 354,120 liters of water per year. That total is equivalent to two average sized back yard pools.

WANT TO SAVE MONEY...DO YOUR PART. CONTROL THE CONTROLLABLES.

SAVING WATER = SAVING MONEY = SAVING FUEL = BOTTOM LINE

Certainly the writer is not an expert, passionate however. Toilets are simply a start. Think the 3 "R's"

1. Repair existing leaking toilets, faucets, shower heads and garden hoses.
2. Replace existing water guzzlers. New technology, not all but some works. 3L single flush toilets, dual flush toilets, low flow aerators and shower heads save water and money. Do your homework. Ask for testimonials on products that work. Low flow or "Green" doesn't always mean they work.
3. Remove any old technology that has worked for years. Some of today's products work better on less water. Again ask for backup documentation.

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